



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Helene Nelson, Secretary

June 9, 2006
For Immediate Release

Stephanie Marquis, Communications Director, 608-266-1683

MILWAUKEE COUNTY RECEIVES FAMILY CARE GRANT

Will Expand Program to Include People with Disabilities

MADISON – The Department of Health Family Services has awarded a \$150,000 grant to Milwaukee County in order to expand its current Family Care program to include adults with disabilities. It will also add Community Care, Inc. and Independent Care Health Plan to its private partnerships.

“Seniors and people with disabilities overwhelmingly prefer home and community care options and shouldn’t be forced into nursing homes if that’s not what they want or need,” said Secretary Helene Nelson. “Family Care has proven people can get the long-term care they need and prefer, and that this can save money for taxpayers by helping people stay healthy, happy and independent.”

In January, Governor Doyle set a goal of expanding the innovative Family Care program statewide within five years and eliminating all wait lists for long-term care services. Family Care allows seniors and people with disabilities the choice to receive long-term care services in their own homes and communities. Family Care provides an entitlement to long-term care, using Medicaid dollars flexibly and not just earmarking dollars for nursing home care.

Currently, the Milwaukee County Department of Human Services supports more than 2,372 people in community based long term care programs, but another 1,982 are on waitlists. There are more than 5,356 people in nursing homes in Milwaukee County.

Governor Doyle and Secretary Nelson have awarded \$1.4 million in grants to communities around the state to lay the groundwork for expanding Family Care statewide and eliminating waiting lists for community-based long term care. While Wisconsin has been a national leader in offering community-based alternatives to nursing home care, about 11,500 people are on waitlists for community care statewide.

Family Care currently services those 60 and older in Milwaukee County, but will now expand its program to include adults with disabilities. Family Care also operates in Fond du Lac, La Crosse, Portage and Richland counties.

For more information about Family Care, go to <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare/>

- END -

Wisconsin.gov

1 West Wilson Street • Post Office Box 7850 • Madison, WI 53707-7850 • Telephone (608) 266-9622 • dhfs.wisconsin.gov